Deviation of Indian Almanacs from Astronomical Parametres

2492. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in 'The Hindu', Delhi Edition of 14th February, 1992 captioned 'Indian almanacs not in line with astronomical parametres';

(b) whether it is a fact that a recent seminar held in Delhi has expressed concern over the multiplicity of almanacs and felt that the implementation of the National Saka calendar could not fulfil the requirements;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

d) whether it is a fact that the multiplicity of various Indian almanacs mostly based on gross unauthentic and miscalculations are not in line with astronimical parametres;

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take to do away with the 'bewildering variety' of Indian Panchangs and to improve the national calendar in tune with the astronomical parametres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Seminar referred to in the Press Report was held in Calcutta. It expressed concern over multiplicity of almanacs. It was stated at the Seminar that a correct and unified National Saka Calendar came into being in 1957 but is yet to achieve popularity.

(d) and (e) Government is aware that the old practices are still being adopted by some of the almanac makers. However, after the introduction of the Rashtriya Panchang by Government of India in 1957, Almanac makers are increasingly using the authentic data published in the Rashtriya Panchang, the demand for which is on the increase. The Rashtriya Panchang is now published in 13 national languages.

(f) In addition to the Rashtriya Panchang, an Annual Indian Astronomical Ephemeris, containing more detailed data of planetary positions, is being published regularly since 1958. These standardized publications serve as source material for calendaric data for Almanac makers who wish to use correct and authentic data.

The National Calendar (Saka) was evolved after due consideration of the astronomical parametres.

Visit to foreign countries by Scientists and Technocrats for Higher Studies

2493. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian scientists and technocrats allowed to visit foreign countries for higher studies during the last three years;

(b) the number of scientists and technocrats who have adopted foreign nationalities during that period; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent such brain drain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Some Indian Scientists and Technolocrats do visit foreign countries for higher studies and some of them adopt foreign nationalities. But it has not been possible to maintain a record.